

Abstract

The aim of this MA thesis is to carry out a corpus-based contrastive study of the semantic relations between verbs and nouns in conversion pairs in English and Czech. Pairs of verbs and nouns like *run.v – run.n*, *salt.n – salt.v* in English and *běžet/běhat* ‘run.v’ – *běh* ‘run.n’, *sůl* ‘salt.n’ – *solit* ‘salt.v’ in Czech are taken to be the result of a word-formation process called conversion, in which a new word belonging to a different word class is created without the addition of any derivational affixes. Using a sample of 300 such pairs in both languages, extracted from the *British National Corpus* for English and from the *SYN2015* corpus for Czech, we analyse and classify the different semantic relations existing between the nouns and verbs. We adopt a cognitive approach and classify the semantic relations based on conceptual event schemata and their elements. Because the nouns and/or verbs are often polysemous, the semantic classification also accounts for the possibility of multiple semantic relations existing between the verb and the noun in one conversion pair. In the analysis, we examine and compare the frequencies with which the different semantic relations appear in the conversion pairs in English and Czech, as well as the patterns of multiple semantic relations that appear together in a single conversion pair.

Key words: English, Czech, conversion, word-formation, semantic relation